



# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

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## ***What is a School Improvement Team?***

A School Improvement Team (SIT) is a group of individuals from the school community who meet to ensure that activities outlined in the School Improvement Plan are completed and are helping students achieve all they can. In some school systems, a SIT may have other or additional responsibilities. Membership on this team usually represents the entire school community, including parents, older students, teachers, administrators, and business partners. Typically, a SIT meets twice a month to discuss how the school plan is working and if it is achieving the desired results. Most school systems have developed their own School Improvement Team guidelines for membership and responsibilities. The state expects a School Improvement Team to follow local school system guidelines.

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## ***Why is there a need for a School Improvement Team?***

A School Improvement Team is part of Maryland's approach to improving schools. It is based on national research that shows the best schools are those which involve all of the school's stakeholders in making important decisions about school improvement.

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## ***What is a School Improvement Plan?***

A School Improvement Plan is an outline of how each school will work to meet state standards that have not been reached. The School Improvement Plan represents the school's plan to address the students' most pressing needs through long-term goals and short-term objectives. It includes a yearly focus, timelines, persons responsible for managing activities, and a plan for measuring how well the activities are helping students improve.

Every public school in Maryland is required to have a School Improvement Plan (COMAR 13A.01.04.06).

Since the population of every school is different, each school's plan is unique. It usually follows a format adopted by the local school system. What is important is that it represents the focus and aim for the many members of the school community. It is a blueprint created by members of the school community to improve their school and help all students meet state standards.

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***How does someone become a member of the School Improvement Team?***

Membership on SIT varies in each system and may vary in each school. Usually a member represents a larger group (e.g., parents), a grade level or team, or a school committee (e.g., reading improvement). Additionally, the school's principal usually serves on the SIT. What is important about a SIT's membership is that there is representation of all interested members of the school community. This group can then help communicate important information or decisions to the rest of the school community. If interested in becoming a member, call the principal of your local school.

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***How is a School Improvement Plan developed?***

Through the analysis of student achievement scores, goal setting, monitoring, and evaluation of how the school-based programs are meeting the needs of students, a SIT can help students achieve satisfactory or excellent standards. School members, including administrators, teachers, parents, older students, and community partners, usually participate in the development and revision of the School Improvement Plan. Most school systems have adopted their own process and time frame for this. Contact your local school for more specific information.